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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 186

SUB: BIO: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES: PHAN KHAC SUU-PHAN QUANG DAN

REF: SAIGON 76, SAIGON 154

1. SUU IS AN ELDERLY SOUTHERN CAO DAI POLITICIAN AND STATESMAN WHO WAS CHIEF OF STATE FROM OCTOBER 1964 TO JUNE 1965. HE IS PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE NATION ASSEMBLY. DAN IS A MIDDLE-AGED NORTH CENTRAL VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST POLITICAL LEADER. AND PHYSICIAN.

2. SUU WAS BORN TO A WEALTHY LANDOWNING FAMILY IN CAN THO IN 1905 AND RECEIVED HIS EDUCATION IN SAIGON, TUNIS AND FRANCE, RETURNING TO VIET-NAM IN 1930 WITH A DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING. HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE OF COCHIN-CHINA FROM 1930UNTIL 1940 , WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED FOR HELPING FOUND THE ANTI-FRENCH UNIFIED DEMOCRATIC PARTY VIET-NAM, AND SENTENCED TO CON SON ISLAND PRISON.

2. RELEASEDIN 1945, HE WAS NAMED DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FOR COCHIN-CHINA, AND DURING THE LATER BAO DAI PERIOD HE SERVED IN THE CABINET AND IN ANTI-FRENCH AND ANTI-COMMUNIST MOVEMENTS RELATED TO THE BINH XUYEN AND CAO DAI. IN 1954 HE BRIEFLY SERVED THE FIRST DIEM GOVERNMENT AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BUT WAS RELIEVED FOR SUSPECTED COMPLICITY IN A BINH XUYEN PLOT. HE CONTINUED IN THE GOVERNMENT AS A CIVIL SERVANT, AND IN 1959 WAS THE ONLY OPPOSITIONIST CANDIDATE ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHO WAS ALLOWED TO TAKE HIS SEAT. IN APRIL 1960 SUU SIGNED THE CARAVELLE PETITION CALLING FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS IN THE DIEM REGIME, AND AFTER THE UNSUCCESSFUL COUP OF NOVEMBER

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1960 WAS ARRESTED, HELD UNTIL JULY 1963, TRIED, AND SENT BACK TO CON SON PRISON.

3. AFTER THE NOVEMBER 1963 COUP HE WAS NAMED TO THE COUNCIL OF NOTABLES AND IN OCTOBER 1964 TO THE HIGH NATIONAL COUNCIL, WHICH SOON ELECTED HIM ITS CHAIRMAN AND THEN NAMED HIM CHIEF OF STATE. HE FILLED THIS POSITION UNTIL JUNE 1965, WHEN HIS QUARREL WITH PREMIER PHAN HUY QUAT LED THE MILITARY TO TAKE THE REINS OF POWER. SUU RE-ENTERED POLITICS IN 6.66 BY GETTING ELECTED WITH A LARGE VOTE TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FROM SAIGON CONSTITUENCY. HE WAS THEN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY AND REELECTED TO THAT POST WHEN THE ASSEMBLY REORGANIZED IN APRIL 1967.

4. DAN WAS BORN IN VINH, NGHE AN PROVINCE, NORTH CENTRAL VIET-NAM, IN 1918, AND HAS STUDIED IN HUE, HANOI, AND THE UNTIED STATES. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE POLITICALLY SINCE 1949. FROM 1955 UNTIL 1960 HE WAS A LEADING CRITIC OF THE DIEM REGIME, AND IN 1959 HE WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUT FORBIDDEN TO TAKE HIS SEAT ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE HAD VIOLATED THE ELECTORAL LAWS. IN NOVEMBER 1960 HEMADE BROADCASTS IN SUPPORT OF THENATTEMPTED COUP , FOR WHICH HE WAS ARRESTED, HELD UNTIL JULY 1963, TRIED, AND SENTENCED TO SON SON ISLAND PRISON, WHERE HE REPORTEDLY SHARED A CELL WITH SUU.

5. RETURNING AFTER THE NOVEMBER 1963 COUP, DAN GRADUALLY WORKED HIS WAY BACK INTO POLITICS, WINNING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GIA DINH PROVINCIAL COUNCIL IN MAY 1965, CHAIRING THE NATIONAL POLITICAL CONGRESS IN APRIL 1966 TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE STRUGGLE MOVEMENT, AND GETTING ELECTED TO THE ASSEMBLY IN AN AMERICAN-STYLE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN FROM A GIA DINH CONSTITUENCY IN SEPTEMBER 1966. IN THE ASSEMBLY DR. DAN SOUGHT NO OFFICIAL POSITION BUT HE HAS BEEN AN INFORMED, ARTICULATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE ASSEMBLY'S WORK. IN DECEMBER 1966 HE SURVIVED A TERRORIST ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE.

6. THUS FAR SUU AND DAN HAVE NOT CAMPAIGNED OPENLY AND HAVE NOT TAKEN MANY STEPS TO ORGANIZE IN THE PROVINCES. BOTH ARE PROVEN VOTE-GETTERS WITH STRONG APPEAL IN THE SAIGON-GIA DINH AREA, AND ARE FAIRLY WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED ELSEWHERE. THE ISSUES ON WHICH THEY WILL CAMPAIGN ARE NOT YET CERTAIN, AND THERE ARE REPORTEDLY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN THE TWO MEN ON THESE AND OTHER MATTERS -- DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY DENIED.

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